

How the President's Message is Regarded.

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niency toward the railroads than of undue harshness. There is nothing in the president's recommendation that constitutes a menace to railroad securities."

The Tariff.—The references in the message to the tariff are exceedingly disappointing to the reformers and reciprocity leaders, who were all expecting some encouragement. The Indianapolis Star (Rep.) declares that his perfunctory words on this important subject have offended "many persons who earnestly and honestly believe that the Dingley schedules are a clog upon industry and a menace to public morals;" and the Columbia State (Dem.) says, "If we may say it of this 'bold,' 'frank,' and 'direct man,' his only utterances on the revenues are 'brief, indefinite, and wabbling.'" The Louisville Courier-Journal (Dem.) remarks that "he has little to say regarding the tariff, and that little is more ambiguous than is his wont." But, says the Florida Times-Union (Dem.), "the eloquent silence as to the tariff has also come to be expected. There was a time when the president was expected to advocate needed reforms in this line, but that time has passed." In fact, the language used by the president, "smacks" as the Charlotte Observer (Dem.) declares, "of the stand-patter phraseology." So papers like the Brooklyn Standard Union (Rep.) and the Nashville American (Dem.) bluntly charge him with being a "stand-patter," while the Newark News (Ind.) says: "That so positive a temperament can dismiss it (the tariff) with a score or so of words . . . betrays an unwonted disposition to grasp a nettle in the clenched fist . . . and suggests a little of a tacit bargain with the opposition to rate legislation."

Friendly critics, however, assert that there is neither obscurity nor lack of courage in the words used by the president in discussing the tariff question. "When Mr. Roosevelt approaches the movement for tariff revision," says the New York Evening Mail (Rep.), "he adopts the language of the judge rather than the advocate." The Savannah News (Dem.) observes that altho "the tariff question is lightly touched upon, it is plain to see that the president thinks that reforms are needed," and the Buffalo Express (Rep.) points out that "he shows an inclination toward reciprocity, by urging closer relations with other people on this continent." The Philadelphia North American (Rep.) also finds "a suggestion that congress shall consider if circumstances in the future are not likely to make it to our interest to introduce a system of maximum and minimum duties which may be employed to obtain favors from governments which have that system in operation." The Buffalo News (Rep.) thinks that even if President Roosevelt is intentionally obscure in expressing his sentiments on the tariff question, he has ample excuse for his course in view of the fact that he has about as much business on his hands as he can well take care of. Says The News:

"The expected, therefore, has happened; Mr. Roosevelt is going to make no fight on the tariff. This will doubtless excite a good deal of sarcastic criticism in some quarters; but we have never been able to see upon what principle a president was to be expected to fight two fights at once, when one is quite big enough to engage all the energies of the strongest and most resolute of men."

The Monroe Doctrine.—Some of the opposition papers think the president

is carrying the Monroe Doctrine too far. It seems to the Indianapolis News (Ind.) that "there are many chances for trouble involved in the adoption of the presidential policy," and "for our part," declares, "we should rather see the Monroe Doctrine limited than extended." The Philadelphia Ledger (Ind.), too, regards as unreasonable the notification to the South American Republics that they must be orderly. "They ought to be orderly, but they certainly will fight at some time or another, and the Venezuelans, for instance, should not be made to 'submit tamely to the outrageous tyranny of Castro.'" In short, it adds:

"If we adopt the Roosevelt policy in its bald entirety, there is a prospect of interminable embroilment for our troops in keeping the republics good and decent and orderly, and in the use of myriads of customs, administrative and executive officials, whose business it will be to govern efficiently disorderly and inefficient republics, when a great many people think that our own problems are quite sufficient for our wisdom and strength."

The Boston Transcript (Rep.), however, is encouraged to see "a decided recession from the language and methods in and by which the president, last winter, enunciated his interpretation of up-to-date Monroeism," and it adds:

"There is no blast of challenge and defiance. In its place we have the assertion of a policy to use our best offices to bring about mutually satisfactory settlements of debt controversies and the preservation intact of the principle underlying original Monroeism. As this tender of good offices has always been among the possible eventualities of the Monroe Doctrine in any stage of its development, even in its enunciation in fact, President Roosevelt's policy will not startle."

Insurance Scandals and Political Corruption.—The proposals for federal supervision of insurance companies and for the purification of politics by new laws against bribery and against contributions by corporations for political purposes, are naturally discussed under one head by the press, on account of the connection discovered between the two during the investigation of the big life insurance companies in New York. "There can be no doubt," says the Philadelphia Record (Dem.), "that there is a strong popular desire for something of this kind" recommended by President Roosevelt. "We are heartily in accord," exclaims the New York Press (Rep.), "with Mr. Roosevelt's wish for a law to compel publicity of gifts" by corporations to national political committees. While the majority of papers think that the president has handled the subject of procuring campaign funds from insurance companies "vigorously and directly," as the Richmond News Leader (Dem.) says he has done, yet there are quite a number of papers which tax him with a lack of energy and courage in the matter. The New York American (Dem.) in speaking of the message says:

"But it touches with great delicacy upon matters which involve the present life of the people, not merely of New York, but of the nation. It refers vaguely to the swindling of the people by the insurance companies and very suspiciously suggests a supervision of these companies by the Federal government. Every body who knows anything about this knows that that is exactly what these companies want."

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